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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. The government of Sinkiang Province appointed by the Chinese Communists in Peiping was, at the end of December 1949, in full control of all areas in the Province, including Kashgar and Ili, where control had followed the entry of Communist troops into the region.
2. The new regime was unpopular because of the high taxes and its disregard for racial prejudices. No elections had been held. Propaganda parades were disrupting traffic daily.
3. Almost all the Kuomintang troops in northern and eastern Sinkiang Province had been absorbed into the People's Liberation Army (PLA), and were being subjected to rigorous training. The physically unfit and those over age had been rejected.
4. The Tungkan 5 Cavalry was, at the end of 1949, the chief component of a striking force which was expected to move in the direction of Kashgar in order to occupy the Pamirs in the early spring.*
5. The infantry troops to be seen in parades in Tihua were equipped with light arms and machine guns. One hundred armored cars of an old type were observed, but no artillery. As the result of constant reinforcements, the total strength of the PLA in Sinkiang Province in December 1949 was estimated at 160,000. Billeting in private homes was customary.
6. By the end of December 1949, the issuance of paper currency had ceased. Normal transactions were based on Chinese silver dollars, gold, and brick tea.

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* Comment. Tibet is possibly the real objective.

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